

Conference Report



Fourteenth Annual Conference of the INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH (IASSH)

Inaugural Session

The 14th Annual IASSH Conference began with its formal inauguration at the auditorium (Kale Hall) of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics at Pune on 23rd September, 2016 at 10:00 AM. The welcoming of the dignitaries proceeded with the presenting of the flower bouquets. Prof. Rajas Parchure, Director of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), welcomed the esteemed dignitaries, IASSH members and the delegates. Prof. Parchure firstly took the opportunity to thank Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. T.V. Sekher, President and General Secretary of IASSH respectively, for considering Gokhale Institute's collaboration to host the 14th Annual Conference at Pune. He concluded by welcoming the guests, delegates, colleagues, media persons and students who have graced the inaugural event. Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, IASSH, chaired the inaugural session and talked about the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) and its activities. Prof. T.V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH talked about the 14th Annual Conference in terms of its preparation, arrangements, programs and collaborations. Dr. J.K. Banthia, former Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (also former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra) delivered the inaugural address of the conference. Dr. Deepak Godbole, DGM, General Insurance Corporation of India, graced the occasion as chief guest. Dr. Anjali Radkar (Organizing Secretary) proposed the vote of thanks. On this occasion, Dr. J.K. Banthia released two books authored by members of the Association. They are "Statistics for Social Sciences" (authored by Prof. T. Rajaretnam) and "Valued Daughters: First Generation Career Women" (authored by Dr. Alice W. Clark), both brought out by Sage Publications in 2016.



Inaugural Session of the Conference: Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. S. Siva Raju, Dr. J.K. Banthia, Mr. Deepak Godbole, Prof. R. Parchure, and Dr. Anjali Radkar on stage



Dr. J.K. Banthia, former Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, delivering the inaugural address of the IASSH annual conference



Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, IASSH, delivering the presidential address

Prof. T. V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH was called upon to introduce about the overall program and special features of the 14th Annual Conference. During the year 2016, the conference announcement was made through the circulation (by post and e-mail) of a well-designed and informative Conference Brochure and highlighting it on the IASSH Website. In response to the call for abstracts, around 450 abstracts were received, from which 200 abstracts were selected for the Oral, Poster and Youth Best Paper presentation categories and acceptance letters were sent out. The efforts for obtaining partial assistance from sponsors began well in advance and helped secure financial assistance/collaborations for the conduct of the conference. The IASSH secretariat team handled the communications and response to queries of the delegates and presenters promptly and consistently. During the 3 days of the conference, we have about 120 Oral, 28 Youth Best Paper and 50 Poster Presentations by participants from various parts of the country.

This year, the pre-conference workshop on 'Approaches to Social Science Research' held during 20-22 nd Sept. 2016 has been a highly successful event with demand from research scholars. 22 young scholars from various universities participated proactively at the workshop and received certificates. This workshop is a regular feature at the IASSH Annual conferences and will continue every year to improve its outreach and meet the demand for such courses on research methodology from time to time. The two unique plenary sessions are the special aspect of the 14th IASSH Annual Conference and will cover important themes and issues relevant to social sciences and health. The third Prof. K.E.Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture is also a major event in this year's conference. Prof. T.V. Sekher announced that IASSH has instituted a memorial lecture series in honour of Prof. John Caldwell, a doyen of Demography and an internationally acclaimed scholar.



Release of the book- "Statistics for Social Sciences" (authored by Prof. T. Rajaretnam and published by Sage, New Delhi) during the inaugural function of the conference

Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health, welcomed the Chief Guests, dignitaries on the dais, the delegates participating in the conference, media persons and others. IASSH is an independent professional association that came into being more than a decade ago, to meet the felt need of having an exclusive forum for social scientists from various disciplines who are working on health issues- to meet periodically and share the research findings. Through highlighting the implications of the study findings among different stakeholders, it is hoped to bring about concerted action to address the identified issues. Thus the activities of IASSH in line with its vision, aims and objectives were to conduct of annual Conferences on themes relevant to social sciences and health and publication of the conference proceedings for its wider dissemination among scholars, practitioners and various stakeholders.



Release of the book- "Valued Daughters: First Generation Career Women" (authored by Dr. Alice W. Clark, Sage Publications) during the inaugural function of the conference

Prof. Siva Raju stated that the IASSH began in a small way with just 8 members in the year 2002 and now it has grown into a registered association with around 1200 life-members and the membership cuts across the disciplines in the field of Social Sciences and Health. IASSH specifically encourages young scholars by providing this platform to disseminate their research findings. Currently, IASSH through its life members and collaborating agencies has developed networks with a pan-India outreach on a continual basis, for exchange of ideas and themes every year through the annual conferences, and more than 10 books were published by the Association.

As is the trend with any growing professional association, IASSH is seriously considering to have regional chapters/workshops with specific themes from time to time, delineate the association's advisory role to policy makers in the field of social sciences and health, to assist the corporates in planning and implementing interventions in the field of health, and catalyze the networking among the various stakeholders by taking a facilitator's role while having 'maximizing the outreach' as the main motto.

Dr. J.K. Banthia in his inaugural address appreciated the efforts of IASSH in organizing the conference and other activities. Speaking about health and social sciences, he expressed that increasingly individuals and fraternity working are able to do much to improve the well being of persons in the society and towards development. A health program that embodies the social sciences principles will make it more responsive and in reaching the beneficiary population. Bridging the inequalities between 'haves and have-nots' is another challenge and it is our responsibility to bring the health agenda at the center-point for programs and research. He also outlined new areas of research which the social scientists need to focus and work with government and other development agencies.

Dr. Deepak Godbole, talked about the increasing realization of the need for health insurance programs and its importance in India. He expressed his happiness and satisfaction the way the association has grown over the years and the conduct of the annual conferences in a professional and scientific manner. He congratulated the team and conveyed his best wishes for a successful conference. Dr. Anjali Radkar, local Organizing Secretary, proposed vote of thanks.



Participants at the Inaugural session

Presentations by the Delegates

Specific to 14th IASSH Annual Conference, we are happy to note that the response to ‘call for abstracts’ was overwhelming for all the 3 categories of oral, poster and youth best paper award presentations and across the 24 sub themes provided under the main theme: "Health, Gender and Development: Emerging Issues and Challenges". We received almost 450 abstracts out of which a screening committee reviewed and selected 200 abstracts. Overall, 300 delegates have participated at the conference across the 3 days. In all, 120 presentations were made as part of the 14 technical sessions held on Day 1 & 2. About 45 posters were displayed and presented by the respective authors. Around 28 Youth Best Paper Presentations were done in the conference which was evaluated by expert committees.



Technical Session in Progress



Technical Session in Progress

Plenary Sessions



Plenary Session on Health Insurance: Prof. Sushobhan Sarkar, Prof. Aswathanarayana, Dr. Steward Doss and Dr. Shalini Pathak Tiwari were the speakers

The First Plenary Session on 'Health Insurance: Risk mitigating strategies'

This plenary session held on 24th September focused on various aspects and dimensions of Health Insurance and risk mitigating strategies in India. Three eminent speakers from National Insurance Academy (NIA) dealt with emerging issues and challenges in the broad areas of health insurance and coverage. This session was chaired by Prof. Sushobhan Sarkar, Director of NIA. The three speakers were Prof. Aswathanarayana, Dr. Steward Doss and Dr. Shalini Pathak Tiwari. This plenary session generated lot of discussion among the participants and highlighted the need for further research on these issues.

The second **Plenary session on Corporate Social Responsibility and Health** chaired by Prof. S. Siva Raju received positive and proactive response from the conference delegates due to its crucial relevance, novelty and potential of the topic deliberated on by esteemed speakers Dr. U. V. Somayajulu, CEO, Sigma Research and Consultants, New Delhi and Ms. Yashoda Kashikar, Research Co-ordinator, ILC-I, Pune. who with their presentations shared the innovative efforts by their agencies and the scope for CSR involvement in the provision of health care to the people that encouraged critical thinking and inspiration among the delegates.



Plenary Session on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Health: Prof. S. Siva Raju, Dr. U.V. Somayajulu and Ms. Yashoda Kashikar

First Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture

The Doyen of world Demography Professor John Charles (Jack) Caldwell died on 12th March 2016 at the age of 87 in Canberra. He was associated with the Department of Demography of Australian National University (ANU) for many decades. Caldwell's seminal work included documentation of the role of mother's education in fertility limitation and child mortality decline and the role of circumcision in inhibiting the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. He is known for his "wealth flows" theory, which relates demographic transition theory to changes in intergenerational transfers within the family. He has encouraged and mentored many young scholars from India, and good number of them received their Ph.Ds from ANU under his able guidance. His anthropological demographic work on south India, particularly on marriage, fertility and contraception, received lot of research attention.



Prof. K. Srinivasan, Distinguished Demographer and Former Director of IIPS, delivering the first Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture at the 14th Annual Conference of IASSH



The first Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture at the 14th Annual Conference of IASSH was chaired by Dr. Venkatesh Srinivasan, Assistant Country Representative of UNFPA, India. Also seen are Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. K. Srinivasan

His students, colleagues and friends have approached the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) to institute a memorial lecture in his honour. IASSH is happy to announce the lecture series in memory of the most famous demographer of our times. The First Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture was held during the 14th Annual Conference of IASSH on 24th Sept. 2016 at 6.00 pm at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (Deemed University), Pune. Distinguished Demographer **Prof. K. Srinivasan** (former Director of IIPS, Mumbai) delivered the first Professor John Caldwell Memorial Lecture on the theme -"Malnutrition and mortality among children in India: Need for a revisit to ICDS Program". Using the available empirical evidence, Prof. Srinivasan emphasized the need to redefine the problems of malnutrition and also the ways of strengthening the ongoing programs. Dr. Venkatesh Srinivasan, Assistant Country Representative, UNFPA India chaired the session. He listed the programmatic challenges that we are facing to ensure nutrition and health care to poor. Prof. T.V. Sekher read out the citation highlighting the contribution of Prof. Caldwell to demography as a discipline and also his work on India. Prof. S. Siva Raju introduced the guest speaker Prof. K. Srinivasan. Prof. K.N.M. Raju, who completed his PhD at ANU under the supervision of Prof. Caldwell, recollected his personal association with his mentor and guide.

Third Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture

IASSH has instituted a memorial lecture in honour of Prof. K.E. Vaidyanathan since 2014. He was the President of the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) from 2007 to 2011 and was mainly responsible for the growth and expansion of the Association to its present form. In his demise, we lost an outstanding scholar, an excellent teacher, an expert health and census professional, and above all, a fine human being. Prof. S. Siva Raju recollected Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan's contributions to social science research and also to IASSH. Prof. K. Srinivasan chaired the session and also shared his long association with Prof. Vaidyanathan. Prof. T.V. Sekher introduced the guest speaker Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy to the audience. The Third Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture was delivered by well known expert on Gender and Reproductive Health, **Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy** (formerly with Population Council) on the theme: "Unmet need for reproductive health services for married adolescent and young women in India", at 6 pm on 23rd September, 2016. She talked about the challenges faced by India in providing basic reproductive health services to young women, particularly in rural areas.



Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy, Well known gender and health expert, delivering the third Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture at the 14th Annual Conference of IASSH



The third Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture at the 14th Annual Conference of IASSH was chaired by Prof. K. Srinivasan. Also seen are Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy, Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. T.V. Sekher

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session began with Prof. Rajas Parchure, Director of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), welcoming the audience and Chief Guest, Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, well known health expert. Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, Director, Inter-disciplinary Studies in Health Sciences, University of Pune, delivered the valedictory address. He spoke about the inter-relationship between social sciences and health and the need for undertaking more field-based research. Prof. S. Siva Raju (President, IASSH), expressed his happiness in the successful completion of the conference and thanked the local organizers, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, for their active involvement and commitment in successfully organizing this conference. Dr. Prashant Bansod (local Organizing Joint Secretary) introduced the speakers. Dr. Anjali Radkar, the local Organizing Secretary proposed vote of thanks. The certificates to the paper presenters were distributed. A special issue of the journal " *Arthavijnana*" (published by GIPE) will carry selected papers from the conference.



Valedictory Session of the Conference: Dr. Anjali Radkar, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan (Chief Guest), Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. Rajas Parchure

Announcement of the Awards

The General Secretary of IASSH Prof. T.V. Sekher announced the awards for best papers and best posters, selected by the expert committees. The prestigious **Youth Best Paper Awards - 2016** were awarded to three young research scholars (Ms. **Namrata Ray**, Ms. **Chhavi Paul** and Ms. **S. Vimalavalli**) and they were each honoured with a certificate and cash prize. **The Best Poster Awards - 2016** were awarded to four young scholars (Ms. **Anupama Deshpande**, Ms. **Debolina Dey**, Mr. **Saurab Singh** and Ms. **D. Arutselvi**) and they were each honoured with a certificate and cash prize.

Winners of Best Youth Paper Award- 2016



Ms. Namrata Ray

Ms. Chhavi Paul

Ms. S. Vimalavalli

EC and General Body Meeting of IASSH: The Executive Committee (EC) of IASSH met on 22nd September, 2016 and took stock of the arrangements of the conference. The meeting also discussed issues regarding regional chapters, research workshops and fund mobilization. The General Body (GB) Meeting took place on 24th September, 2016. During the last one year, around 100 new members enrolled as life members of the Association. The discussions were on the membership drive, new collaborations, news letters, updating the website, and planning for the next conference. It was decided to enhance the life membership fee from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 from 1st October 2016. The audited statement of accounts of the Association was presented by the Treasurer Prof. D. P. Singh and was approved by the General Body. The audited statement of accounts is placed on the IASSH website.

Financial support: 14th annual conference received financial support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), JSW Foundation, Indian Council for Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) and Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE). IASSH is thankful to all of them for their collaboration and support in successfully organizing the conference at Pune.

Seventh Pre-Conference Workshop on ‘Approaches to Social Science Research’

The pre-conference workshop was held during 20-22nd September, 2016 at Pune. In order to train young research scholars, IASSH has initiated the Pre-Conference Workshop on “Approaches to Social Science Research” from the year 2010 onwards. Important aspects of social science research were discussed in this year’s workshop and the experts provided guidance to the M.Phil./Ph.D scholars in designing, analyzing and executing their study. This year, 22 research scholars from various universities and institutes have participated in the workshop and gave feedback that this is a useful platform for them in fine-tuning the methodological aspects of their dissertations. The participants were given certificates and a book on research methodology (“Statistics for Social Sciences”).

Topics Covered in the Pre-Conference Workshop: Introduction to Social Science Research, Selection of Research Problem, Approaches in Quantitative and Qualitative Research, Methods of Collection of Qualitative and Quantitative Data, Development of Tools, Quantitative Data Analysis using SPSS, Qualitative Data Analysis using Atlas-ti, Writing Research Proposal, Thesis writing, Presentation Skills and Ethics in Social Research. The resource persons included Dr. Jayanti Kajale, Prof Ram Gambhir, Dr. Pradeep Apte, Dr. Rama Kawade, Dr. Saju Joseph, Dr. Shantanu Ozarkar, Dr. T Rajaretnam, Prof. S. Siva Raju, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. D.P. Singh, Prof. N. Audinarayana and Dr. Anjali Radkar. Prof. Rajas Parchure, Director of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), inaugurated the program and Dr. Anjali Radkar (GIPE) Coordinated the workshop. Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam (Director, Centre for Gerontological Studies and former President, Indian Sociological Society) addressed the group and also distributed the certificates to the workshop participants.



Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam (Director, Centre for Gerontological Studies and former President, Indian Sociological Society) distributing the certificates to the workshop participants



Participants of the Pre-conference Workshop with organizers and resource persons

We are Thankful to:

